

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 01551 041827Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ARAE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 ACDA-07

AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 /095 W

-----041831Z 055279 /46

O R 041754Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2790

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS

43\*: MANAGUA 1317 (NOTAL)

1. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, VITTORIO FARINELLI, CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 1 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA. FARINELLI STATED HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE NATIONAL GUARD ENGAGED IN REPRESSIVE ACTS, SUCH AS PHYSICAL ABUSES AND MISTREATMENT OF CAMPESINOS SUSPECTED OF BEING FSLN TERRORISTS, OR AIDING SAME. HIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON REGULAR REPORTS RECEIVED FROM SOME FORTY ITALIAN PRIESTS, MAINLY FRANCISCANS, WHO ARE STATIONED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. THE PRINCIPAL CAMPESINO COMPLAINT TO THE ITALIAN PRIESTS IS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF RELATIVES DETAINED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD. THE ITALIAN PRIESTS CLAIM THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINE IN ALLEGED ABUSES AND DISAPPEARANCES SINCE MID-1976, BUT THAT THEY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS. ACCORDING TO FARINELLI, THE ITALIAN PRIESTS CONSIDER THAT THE CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES MADE IN THE BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER OF JANUARY 1977 ARE OVERSTATED, AND THAT THEY MORE ACCURATELY PORTRAY THE SITUATION OF EARLY 1976. FARINELLI HAS REPORTED TO ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HAS IMPROVED SINCE MIDDLE OF 1976 THAT  
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ABUSES CONTINUE AT LOWER LEVEL, AND THE BISHOPS' PASTORAL LETTER EXAGGERATES SCOPE OF CURRENT PROBLEM.

2. AMBASSADOR FARINELLI'S REPORT IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT PROVIDES ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION FROM DIFFERENT GROUP OF CHURCH OBSERVERS THAN THE CAPUCHINES WITH WHOM WE MAINTAIN CONTACT. HIS REPORT IS IN ACCORD WITH ASSESSMENT OF PAPAL NUNCIO AND SENIOR

NICARAGUAN CHURCH OFFICIALS REPORTED REFTEL.  
THEBERGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, PERSONNAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009